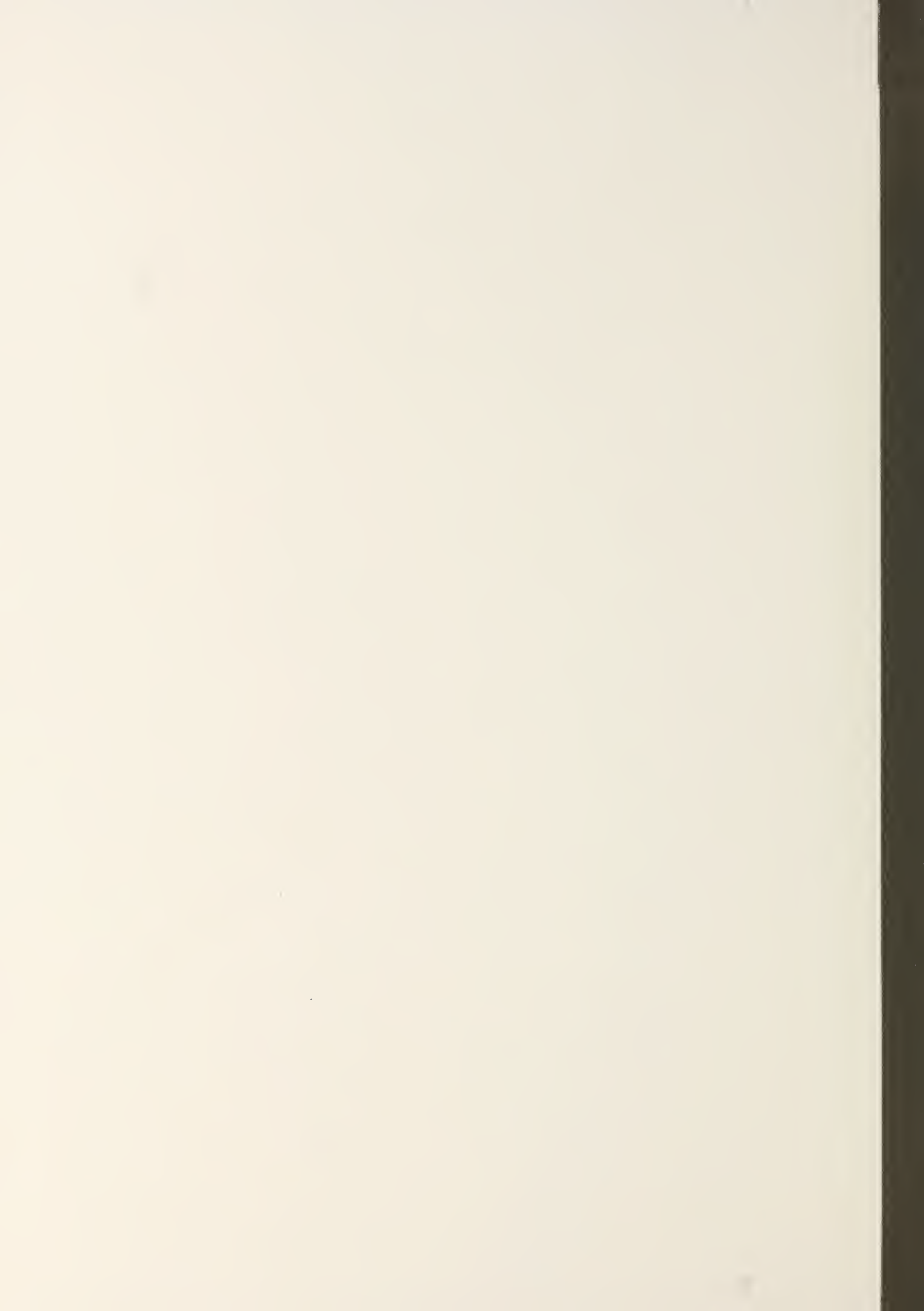


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Illinois  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Bureau of Water  
Post Office Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

FEB 07 2003

June 2002

## Arsenic in Drinking Water Rule

**Purpose:** Reducing the risk of a variety of cancers by reducing the exposure to arsenic in drinking water from Community Water Systems. To meet this goal, the MCL for Arsenic was reduced to 10 ppb( parts per billion) by the Arsenic in Drinking Water Rule.

### Important Dates

February 22, 2002: Arsenic in Drinking Water Rule Effective Date.  
January 23, 2006: Systems must comply with the new 10 ppb standard.

### Common Acronyms and Definitions

**MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level  
**Cation Exchange:** A treatment where polyvalent cations (e.g. radium, calcium, etc.) are exchanged for sodium. Home water softeners are a form of cation exchange.  
**Reverse Osmosis:** A treatment where pressure is applied to a concentrated solution forcing pure water to flow through a semi-permeable membrane.  
**Lime Softening:** A treatment which uses chemical precipitation to remove contaminants (e.g. carbonates, radium, etc.).

### Viable Treatment Alternatives

Treatment for arsenic removal includes ion exchange, lime softening, and reverse osmosis.

Note: Other treatment alternatives may be considered, since every public water supply is different. Before a treatment technique is chosen, the supply should discuss the various treatment options with its engineer.

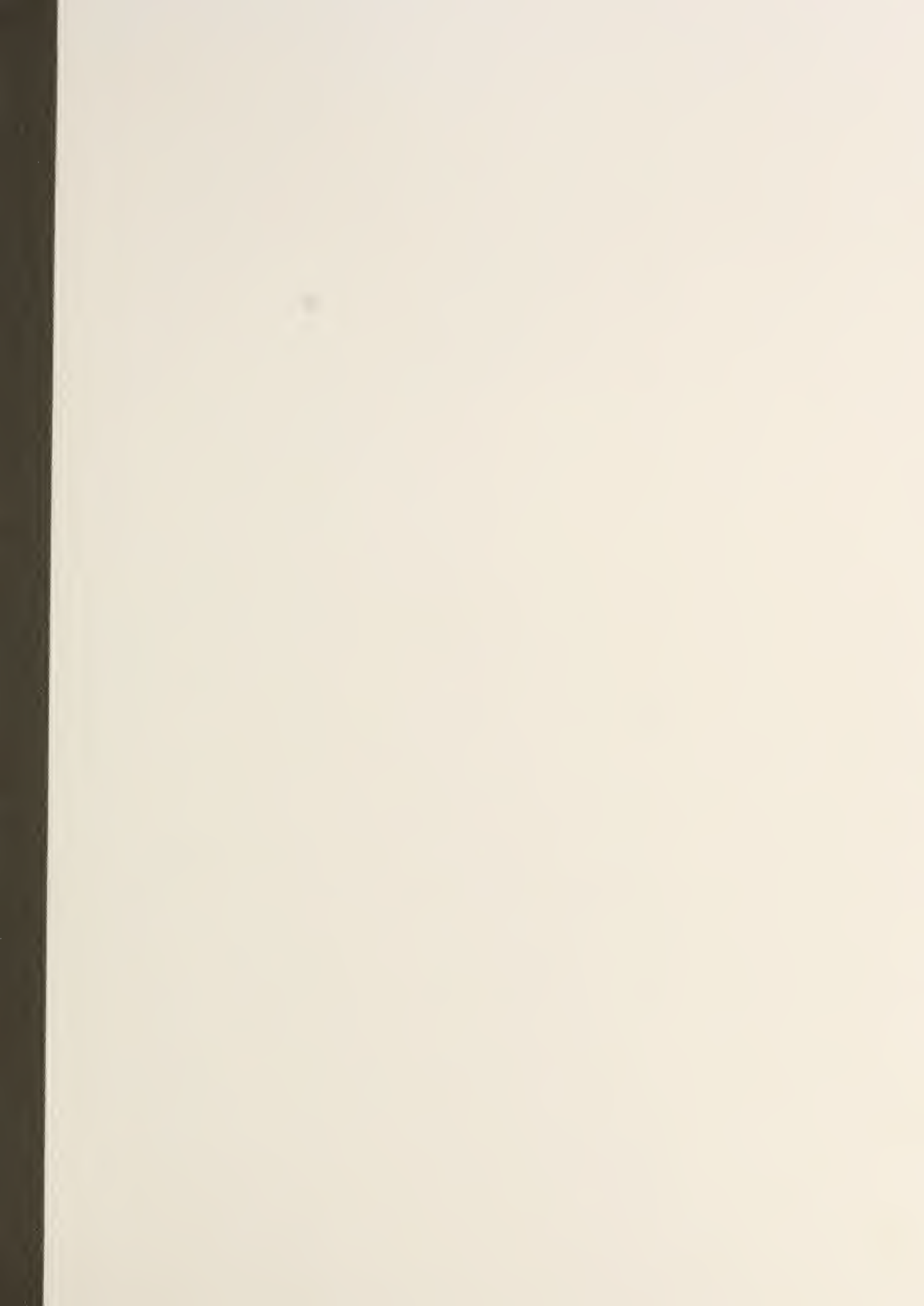
**Contacts:** For further information on Monitoring Requirements and Determining Compliance, contact the Compliance Assurance Section at 217/785-0561. For questions on treatment options and obtaining permits, contact the Permit Section at 217/782-1724.

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